

Benelux Meteor

Volume 22, Number 9

Published by the 80th Area Support Group

May 21, 2004

Not forgotten



PHOTOS: Vanessa Thonnard, TASC Photo Lab

Woods yield a fallen son from WWII

By Tom Larscheid

The remains of a U.S. Soldier of the 99th Infantry Division, killed in the opening phase of the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, are being returned to the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii for identification and notification of next of kin.

In a fallen Soldier ceremony held April 29 in the Krinkelt-Rocherath Catholic church, not far from where the Soldier was found, the remains were transferred from Belgian to American possession.

U.S. Acting Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and Chargé d'Affaires, Brenda Schoonover, accepted the custody documents from Büllingen Mayor Gerhard Palm.

"Your Excellency, we are honored to hand over to you the remains of your countryman so that he can have at last, a final resting place in dignity in his homeland and near his family. But by your permission, we'll keep him in our hearts in thankful remembrance," Palm said.

Schoonover thanked the people of Belgium, and in particular Jean-Louis Seel, Marc Marique, Jean-Luc Menestrey and Jean-Philippe Speder, who have spent most of their free time since 1980 searching the nearby woods for remains of Soldiers missing in action.

"I would like to thank you and express the gratitude of the people of the United States," she said. "Some part of Belgium will return too and that is exactly how it should be. (The Soldier) and his country stood beside Belgium during its greatest crisis, to liberate it from tyranny. He reminds us of the cost of the defense of freedom. He was here, he paid, he gave. The message of the Battle of the

Ardennes is still alive; liberty always has to be defended."

The Soldier's remains were found in a fox-hole along with a set of dog tags, a knife, a grenade and parts of a machine gun. His helmet and boots were missing.

According to Seel, who found the remains,



Rev. Bruno Heck, the Catholic priest of Rocherath-Krinkelt, blesses the Soldier's remains before Belgian pallbearers from Camp Elsenborn hand over the transfer case to their U.S. counterparts.

it is not uncommon to find American Soldiers without their boots. By 1944, much of German army personal field equipment was of inferior quality, especially leather boots.

"American combat boots were highly prized," Seel said.

The Belgian searchers, known as 'The Diggers,' are members the 99th Infantry Division Association. They have all the files of those listed as missing in action, and, over the years, have been able to map out where they feel fallen GIs may still be found. Corroborated with eyewitness accounts from locals and veterans, Seel said it just takes time to find them.

"It is a big success when you find the remains of the Soldier you are looking for. It takes hundreds and hundreds of hours," he said of the weekly searches. "We know all the names well. For example, one time when I saw the first name on a dog tag, I knew exactly who he was. I knew his unit and when he was killed because of the records."

The Diggers have special permission to search the forest floor with metal detectors and excavate. They have found 11 sets of remains from the 99th Infantry Division alone, 10 of which have been positively identified.

"You know there is a family behind every missing in action," Seel said. "Our task is done when a family is officially notified. We're going to keep on looking."

The coordination of all physical and administrative aspects of the transfer of custody was done by a team headed by Mark Baldwin, mortuary officer, U.S. Army Memorial Affairs Activity, Europe.

The color guard and pallbearers were from the 80th Area Support Group, Chièvres, Belgium.

Larscheid is the previous editor of the Benelux Meteor.

Quick Read

In General

Make leave donation

Marla Clayton, a 98th Area Support Group employee, is in urgent need of annual leave donations. She has exhausted all her sick and annual leave. Should you wish to donate annual leave to Marla Clayton, contact Heike Brebeck, DSN 375-9767.

Belgium

Thank our volunteers

Brussels volunteer recognition ceremony is May 21, 7:30 p.m., at Three Star Lounge. This year's theme is "Volunteers are Stars". Info: Emmy Isbell, 02 717-9679 or Emmy.Isbell@benelux.army.mil. *SHAPE and Chièvres Volunteer Recognition Luncheon* is May 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at SHAPE Officers' Club ballroom. Info: Grace Cesonis, DSN 423-4270.

Find that great job

A Job Information Fair is May 27, 10 a.m.-noon, at Hotel Maisières. Info: Pina Artale, DSN 423-4904.

Workshop planned

80th ASG Exceptional Family Member Program has a workshop for parents and providers about autism and Pervasive Development Disorder May 25, 10 a.m.-noon, at the ACS conference room, Building 318. Guest speaker is Cecil Burns, EDIS psychologist. Includes a light lunch. Seating is limited. RSVP: 065 44-7461.

Netherlands and Germany

Self Help expands hours

The DPW Self Help Store has relocated behind the Housing Office, Building 18, and is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturdays on a trial basis until May 29, 9 a.m.- noon.

Join the walk of a lifetime

The AFNorth Walking Club sponsors a volksmarch through the Brunssumerheide May 30 starting at 7:30 a.m. Info: Kim or Otto Benke, 31 45 527-6356.

Commissary renovating

Schinnen commissary is undergoing extensive renovations - please be patient. The commissary staff is doing everything they can to ease this inconvenience.

Local club off-limits

U.S. authorities have put the Koempel Club (K-Club) on Rumpenerstraat in Brunssum temporarily off-limits to all U.S. personnel in the Tri-border area. Info: Tom Leugers, 31 46 443-7351.

Driver fatigue contributes to fatality

13 May 2004

Bell Sends #19-04
SAFETY ALERT
POV Crash—Soldier Killed
Leader-Soldier Communication

1. A young Soldier was killed in a POV crash early last Friday while making a 360-mile, round-trip journey in bad weather after a full day of work. The accident is under investigation. It appears, however, that the Soldier, who was traveling alone, had driven many hours to take care of personal business and was trying to return before the start of the next duty day.

2. This death could have been prevented. Any of the risk factors involved—darkness, fatigue, bad weather, traveling alone, unrealistic time schedule—should have raised a red flag for the Soldier; but

apparently the individual made the tragic mistake of assuming the benefits of the trip outweighed the risks. Communication between leaders and their Soldiers helps prevent Soldiers from taking unnecessary risks such as this.

3. Leaders at all levels must use the tools they have at their disposal to prevent needless deaths like this. One of those tools is an inherent leadership responsibility: the need to talk to subordinates who are planning trips or other off-duty activities. That being said, communication is a two-way street. Soldiers must discuss their travel plans with their squad-level

/ first-line supervisor NCOs and jointly assess the risks involved. My Memorial Day Weekend memorandum, which is available

on the USAREUR homepage, calls this process “meeting under the oak tree.” This meeting requires Soldiers to voice specific measures they plan on taking when traveling, based on the risk assessment they and their leaders determine together.

4. Leaders bear an enormous responsibility for the welfare of their Soldiers. This special trust in the lives of our Soldiers is not a day-job; it applies around the clock, 365 days a year. Soldiers also have a special

responsibility to their leaders, to their comrades, and to themselves by considering their own safety. I expect leaders to talk to their Soldiers, but I also expect Soldiers to seek out their leaders to discuss travel plans and other off-duty activities. These “meetings under the oak tree” are not optional; on the contrary, they are essential to upholding the concept of Soldier hard, Soldier safe, and to ensuring that we continue to execute with excellence, Any Mission, Anywhere.



/s/
B.B. BELL



Gen. B. B. Bell

Changes planned for Army garrisons in Europe

Compiled from news releases

U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe will work on three structural changes over the course of the next year that will alter the internal organization of the command, but not the services and support personnel receive in their communities.

IMA Europe news releases issued May 13 explained the three changes will occur simultaneously: area support groups at four locations will merge with one of their adjacent subordinate base support battalions; some 550 military positions throughout IMA-E will be converted to civilian; and civilian personnel positions overall will be reduced by four percent.

The three changes are expected to be completed by the summer of 2005.

The consolidations will put IMA-E in closer alignment with the worldwide installation management structure, known as “Standard Garrison Organizations” by making those ASGs operational headquarters that execute missions and provide front-door services like other garrisons. The emphasis on Standard Garrison Organization is aimed at insuring consistent levels of support and services for Soldiers, civilians and families wherever they may be stationed in the Army.

At the four locations where there will be consolidation, the ASG staff will assume control of the BSB staff, which for the most part will remain intact. There will be instances where an ASG position is kept in lieu of a similar position at the BSB level. There is a possibility that some jobs will

“move” to other BSBs. There is also a possibility that jobs will “change” to other occupational specialties as new civilian positions result from the military-to-civilian conversion. Such determinations will be made as the position-by-position review is conducted over the next year.

Also next summer, IMA-E will change from “ASGs” and “BSBs” to designations such as “U.S. Army Garrison, Stuttgart,” also in keeping with the standardization of garrisons worldwide. The garrisons will still have an active duty lieutenant colonel or colonel as commander.

The plan to convert military positions to civilian targets positions with responsibilities that do not truly require a Soldier to perform them.

“The Chief of Staff of the Army needs the manpower to build the new modular brigades,” explained HQs IMA-E Resource Management Division Manpower Chief Dani Villiva. “The Army is looking worldwide to take military out of garrison operations wherever possible and put them back into the fighting force structure of the Army.”

For IMA-E, the plan will convert some 550 military positions to civilian out of more than 1,000 military assigned today.

“Of the 550 military positions converted, about 150 are in the military police arena - desk sergeants, Drug Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) NCOs, Physical Security Inspectors, and such,” stated Villiva. “Smaller numbers of conversions will come from command group positions, chaplain assistants, adjutants, engineers, logistics and others. We are working the num-

bers, position by position.”

“The key is for the civilian personnel system to create new (IMA-wide) standardized job descriptions for the work to be performed and to have the civilian recruitment actions submitted in a timely manner, so that our civilian personnel system is able to recruit and bring the personnel on board before the military incumbent leaves,” Villiva noted.

A work in progress, the military-to-civilian conversion should ultimately provide additional job opportunities for U.S. and host nation employees, even with the planned four percent staffing reduction factored in.

Within Europe, up to 350 positions of some 10,000 may be lost in the four percent staffing decrease, directed by the Department of the Army and HQ, IMA. However, IMA-E officials plan to manage the reduction through normal attrition, so that as positions are vacated due to retirements, rotations, and the expiration of authorities for temporary and term employees occur over the next year, IMA-E will closely review each to determine if back-fill is needed and if the position is available for reduction.

While accomplishing these requirements, the main goal of Army communities in Europe is to continue to provide the same quality services and support to Soldiers and families stationed here. At the same time, the position reviews must be done smartly to insure operations continue smoothly and with as little turbulence for employees as possible. Details of the actions will be provided as they develop.

SHAPE Toastmasters Club hosts world champion speaker

By Roger Wheatley

The SHAPE International Toastmasters Club had the honor of hosting Ed Tate, who is the World Champion Public Speaker. Between the Division Contest in Luxembourg on April 3 and another session in Amsterdam the evening of April 4, Ed visited SHAPE and presented a dynamic public speaking workshop which was well attended.

The theme of the presentation was “You Too Can Be a World Champion.” His insightful formula for success has been proven as Ed competed against more than 170,000 Toastmasters from over 40 countries to be named the best in the 2000. He now speaks professionally and has written on the subject as well.

Tate presented several short speeches including the one that he used to win the 2000 World Championship and some he used in previous competitions to illustrate skills necessary to be a world champion public speaker or simply to improve presentation skills. He shared his “four H” formula for success in creating a powerful presentation.

Tate said he tries to connect with the Head, Heart, use Humor, and have a Heavy hitting message. Of these, depending on the topic, humor is optional. Through his examples and four-step formula for creating a powerful presentation, Ed provided the audience with the opportunity to create a new



Ed Tate

speech from a recent incident in their lives. These demonstrations proved his point that, “we don’t have bad days; we simply have new speech material.”

His story-telling style was inspirational and left me sure that I could use the art of story to illustrate virtually any personal or professional truth and better communicate the point to an audience.

Ed commands four-figure speaking fees worldwide because he knows what he is talking about and he certainly has something valuable to say. However, he was extremely excited to receive our token of appreciation which was a plaque commemorating the event which included the flags of our NATO Alliance members. Several of these nations are represented in our club but we always encourage guests and new members regardless of why they wish to join.

Toastmasters offer an incredible variety of benefits. Many join to overcome the fear of public speaking, some want to improve presentation skills, others wish to practice speaking English when it is not their primary language in a safe comfortable environment. Toastmasters help improve listen-

ing skills as well because all communication requires both speaking and listening. There are also opportunities for leadership. Participation at club meetings in functions such as Toastmaster, Evaluator, or Timer all helps members improve their communication and leadership skills. Tate said it best when he described that Toastmasters had changed his life profoundly. He said that it gave him confidence.

Tate told the crowd at the SHAPE Library classroom that the organization had helped him develop a sense of confidence that made accomplishing any goal attainable. He attributed the organization’s people as the most positive group of individuals dedicated to self-improvement and learning he has ever associated with. I find this to be exactly the case in Toastmasters clubs I have visited in Europe and in several of the United States. I hope you join us at the next regular meeting. SHAPE Toastmasters meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at the SHAPE Officers Club and meetings are open to everyone.

For more information please call Roger Wheatley at DSN 423-4276.

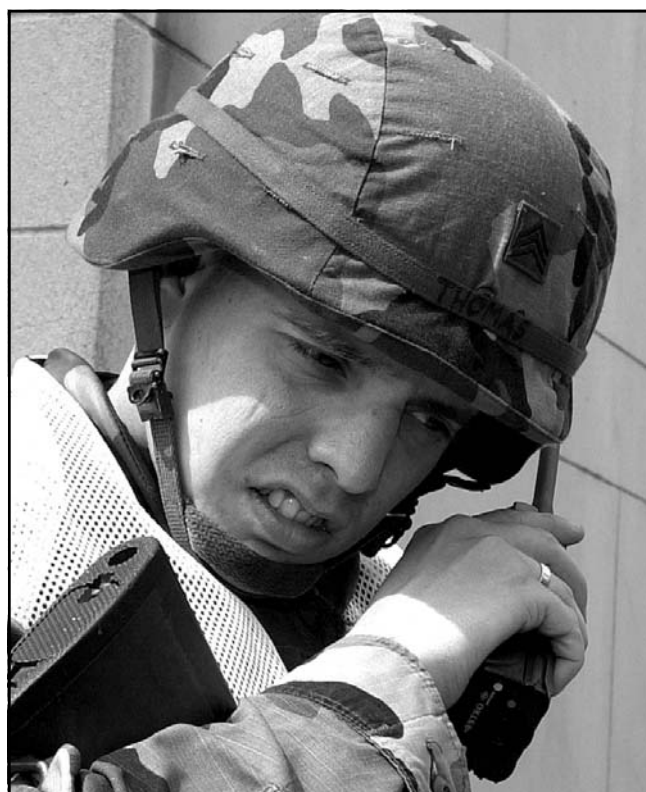


Wheatley

NSA exercise makes for hard play



Sgt. Brad Pritts, left, and Sgt. Robert Wade subdue a suspected terrorist played by a Belgian Army Reserve captain. About 200 Belgians supported the exercise.



TOP: Sgt. Jeremy Thomas checks in with command control during the exercise. BOTTOM: Spec. Joel Zrolka evacuates a casualty from the scene, which featured an automobile actually on fire.



By F. Neil Neeley

It could happen in an action movie or it could happen for real.

A car bomb exploded May 12 at 1 p.m. in Brussels on the NATO Support Activity parking lot followed by fire and acrid smoke. There were 40-60 fatalities plus another twenty or so walking wounded.

Approximately seven minutes later another bomb was discovered in one of the NSA buildings. That bomb was thought at first to be chemical or biological.

The base was evacuated and the Belgian Police closed off the Chaussée de Louvain in front of NSA for 500 meters in both directions.

A Level Three Emergency was declared by Belgian authorities. A team made up of representatives from province and local emergency agencies gathered at a crisis center along with the local mayor and the province governor of Brabant. They were joined by NSA's liaison to the Belgian government and the station commander.

Emergency command and control procedures and communications were cranked up. Many Belgian state and local agencies responded to the disaster including police, fire department, rescue, and a Belgian military explosive ordnance disposal team.

This wasn't a repeat of the 1985 communist terrorist attack on NSA; it was only a joint U.S. and Belgian exercise testing both nations' abilities to deal with the aftermath of a terrorist attack on NSA. Yet it was so realistic that a passing civilian psychologist from NATO Headquarters, unaware that it all wasn't real, stopped to render assistance.

According to Staff Sgt. Rick Bertrand, NSA Anti Terrorism Officer and exercise architect, the exercise began May 10. "We ramped up the last two days based on an exercise involving information of possible terrorist activities in the area," he said. "We ramped up to force protection posture Charlie and did extra security measures up until the car bomb exploded."

Bertrand's assistant Bill Bergman tells us what happened next. "The Belgian agencies played this thing in full," Bergman said. "There were about 200 or more Belgians involved. The Belgian army provided volunteers to play military wounded and the Belgian Red Cross provided civilian volunteers to play U.S. civilian wounded because we would have had casualties with a good sized bomb. This prevented our employees from being hassled a whole lot."

Bergman explained that the "casualties" looked pretty realistic and even a bit gory.

Bergman says that within minutes after the car bomb exploded everyone was evacuated from the NSA compound to an assembly area a few blocks away. "Because of the status of forces arrangements with our host nation, it's from there on that the Belgians took over," he said. "The Belgian Red Cross took everyone's identity. Next, medical authorities performed triage on the wounded. Those without serious injuries were released. Those needing immediate medical attention were actually transported to a hospital."

Back at NSA Bertrand was busy directing the exercise. The scenario included the discovery of a second unexploded chemical bomb inside NSA.

To check out that possibility the Belgian military EOD arrived with their robot which was sent into the building to defuse the "bomb." To shorten the length of the exercise it was decided to play it as though the second bomb checked out clear of chemical or biohazards.

Once the bomb was defused the exercise was concluded for most of the U.S. participants. However, the exercise continued well into the evening for the Belgians. This exercise is not something that we did in three months," said Bertrand. "We started this exercise in November 2002. It was supposed to occur in May 2003." Because of the real world situation at that time Bertrand says that it was postponed until now.

The exercise was brought to a successful conclusion with a minimum cost to the U.S., according to Bergman, who said the Belgian government bore most of the cost.



Bertrand



Authentic-looking "wounds" added to the exercise stress level.



Sgt. Robert Wade helps move a casualty to safety. The wounded man is played by a Belgian Army soldier.

254th BSB Triborder news

Schinnen displays environmental care

By Sandy Aubrey

SCHINNEN, Netherlands – Although the sky was overcast and the fields were soggy because it had rained all morning, it was perfect weather for the grand opening of the 254th Base Support Bn. wetland sanctuary April 22.

Weeks before the event, the 254th's Environmental Office held a poster contest for AFNorth Elementary School students and eight artists were honored at the opening ceremony the opening ceremony. Their art work was made into 800 placemats for AIS elementary students and child development center children. The selected posters were made by Jarron Anderson, kindergarten; Jenna Kilgallon, first grade; Lydia Thomas and Cole Jameson, third grade; Emily Budd, second grade; Emma Wighton, fourth grade; Cory Zembower, fifth grade; and Janie Pharoah, sixth grade.

The inauguration of the Eco-Park marked the culmination of nine years of work. The activities of the day were geared toward teaching children the importance of environmental conservation.

The Eco-Park is the brainchild of Hans Verwasch, chief of the BSB's Environmental Management Office. Verwasch fought for five years to get funding for the project after seeing the final report of a survey that had been conducted of the area. Seven European laboratories analyzed samples to determine water quality and recommended use of the pond. After nine months they produced a thick report that contained information about the flora and fauna of the area. The report classified the Schinnen pond as a Class 3 wetland, a rare water environment.

The survey team found a unique plant called wet bush that grows by large ponds but has become increasingly rare in the Netherlands due to the diminishing availability of groundwater. The species *Zavrelia marmarata* and the *Zavrelimyia* were found in the pond. These species of water beetles prefer environments that are influenced by seepage and the Schinnen pond is fed by three natural springs. Because of this, the cool water in the pond is an ideal habitat for the rare *Culex territans* mosquito. According to experts, the only place in the Netherlands where this insect is found is at the Schinnen pond. The University of Maastricht has shown interest in studying this species.

One of the main challenges Verwasch and the DPW staff faced in the refurbishment project was maintaining the ecosystem while construction was ongoing. The pond



PHOTO: Henk Salvre

More than 80 fifth graders from AFNorth International School joined the 254th Base Support Bn. commander, the mayor of Schinnen, parents, and staff outside the gates of the refurbished Eco-Park to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and formally inaugurate the facility. The children especially enjoyed the demonstration by the Schinnen Fire Department. Jaylon Bardell tries her hand at fire fighting while her classmates look on.

was drained and dredged, stumps removed along with 2,100 tons of sludge. Over 2,000 carp, pike, bream and perch were captured and moved to the pond in front of the headquarters building.

Once the construction was completed, the pond was refilled by its own springs and rainwater. The fish were recaptured and relocated, thousands of wild flower seeds were scattered and hundreds of plants were introduced.

Today Eco-Park boasts resting areas and viewing platforms, a nature walking path and about 40 plaques with

pictures and names of rare plants in the area. One side of the pond can be used for fishing and several levels on the north side of the pond host water plants.

The project cost \$75,000 but Verwasch figures the price tag is well worth it.

"We now have an environmentally friendly wetland protecting rare and endangered animal and plant species that will be great for education purposes," Verwasch said. "People need to know that we are good stewards of the environment."

High school students thrive on international controversy

By Kris Miranda

The AFNORTH International School debate team is normally a group of upstanding students who take advanced placement and other honors courses. Some even have jobs and others participate



in athletics. They're as fine a group of young men and women as can be found at the school. But on Tuesday afternoons, when the clock strikes 3:45 p.m., they have more squabbles than the characters of primetime drama and make more lame jokes than would-be comedians at a cheap casino's open mic night.

However, during the week of April 25, debate team members set aside their normal habits to host a group of fellow debaters from Gyor, Hungary.

Team coach Jayson Campeau, a computer applications and history teacher at AFNorth, was in touch with the Hungarian team's coach for several weeks prior to the visit. Campeau scheduled events for the debaters that included both business and recreational activities.

The Gyor students arrived late Sunday night by train and the next day they had a reception in the International Office, with the school's director, Dr. Benjamin Briggs.

After meeting with Briggs the group got a tour of the school by assistant director Gerhard Groblichhoff. The AFNorth team hosted a lunch in the school cafeteria for their guests. After lunch the Hungarian debaters prepared for the first round of debates. The topic was, "Should the government use microchip tracking devices in human beings?"

On Tuesday the Gyor students toured the base at Geilenkirchen. They also spoke to AIS classes about their country and hometown. However, the highlight of the day was the first round of the microchip implant debate, judged by members of the AIS faculty.

The second round of the de-

bate was Wednesday preceded by a reception in the Canadian Office and a friendly competition of debate team staple "Just a Minute." In this exercise participants speak for one minute; ideally without hesitating, repeating words, or getting off the subject. Participants can choose their topics no matter how inconsequential, ridiculous, or risqué it may seem - up to, and including purple elephants, the merits of beer, drag queens and corpses. The exercise was not limited to the two debate teams and students from other classes were invited to participate.

Round two of the microchip implant debate concluded and the group went off to Luca's for a hardy dinner of ribs and the final fun round of Just a Minute.

As the week-end approached, the Gyor students took advantage of time and visited Aachen and Den Haag on Thursday and on Friday they met their hosts at Hoensbroek Castle for more sightseeing, followed by a picnic lunch at Drilaandpunt, the spot in Vaals where a person can stand on the borders of Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands at the same time. That evening after dinner the debaters finally got to kick back and relax and enjoyed a movie at the local cinema.

On Saturday and Sunday the

group did some more touring to include a city tour of Maastricht. Campeau, held a farewell party for the group at his house on Sunday evening. But before heading back home, the Hungarians concluded their visit to the Netherlands with a visit to Amsterdam.



The AFNorth debate team's Hungarian Exchange Program promises to be a true international experience.

The AIS debate team would

like to thank the Department of National Defense Dependent Education Ottawa DCBA, the Canadian School Council, the Canadian and American Spouses Clubs, the Women of GK, the AFNorth Booster Club, ACAC AFNorth, the AFNorth High School's Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and the NATEX grocery store for their generosity and support.

Miranda is a junior at AFNORTH International School and a member of the debate team.

New Hours for Schinnen PX

AAFES operating hours, effective June 1

Gas Station: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., daily

Shoppette: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., daily

Main Store and PXtra: Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; both closed Monday.

Burger King: 8 a.m.-7 p.m., daily

Anthony's: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., daily

Concessions: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; all closed Sunday and Monday.

Babies, parents benefit from infant massage

By Fiona Webster

Touch.

"Oohh, that was really good, I needed that!"

How many times have you said that after a friend gives you a back rub or gives your shoulders a rub? How good does it feel to have a massage?

Infants benefit from touch sensation as much, if not more, than adults. In the womb the fetus is rocked and then the gentle caress of the uterine contractions rhythmically provides massive stimulation to the infant's skin and organ system.



Webster

On entering the world it is a mother's instinct to stroke and lovingly touch her infant. This is equally observed in animals as well as humans. The mother cat spends over 50 percent of her time licking her kittens.

Infant Massage is an ancient tradition which has been rediscovered in the Western world and has been researched widely since. The Touch Research Institute at the University Of Miami School Of Medicine has been researching the powerful role of touch since 1993 and they have published over 63 studies demonstrating the benefits of massage and touch.

The International Association of Infant Massage has a mission to "promote nurturing touch, so parents, caregivers and children are loved, valued and respected throughout the world."

Infant Massage is advantageous to both parents and infants. Benefits to infants include: supports the bonding process; improves blood circulation, digestion and inner equilibrium; conveys a consciousness of love, acceptance and security; the baby learns how to relax and become more calm; the infant feels respected and his or her needs are cared for and considered; can improve sleep patterns; stimulates a heightened sense of wellbeing; furthers the development of the digestive tract and the respiratory organs; reduces colic symptoms and digestive problems.

Benefits for the parent include: bonding and relaxation; communication, verbal and non verbal; increased parental competence in relating to and handling the baby; fun and joy; increase in prolactin / oxytocin pro-



Eight-month-old Rachael Hewitt is massaged by her mother Angie. Infant Massage classes are held in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility every Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.

PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

duction; development of awareness through loving touch and caring attention.

Infant massage also has positive effects on babies with special needs and can be advantageous with children of all ages. For toddlers, massage can develop into song/play time with singing. Cross cultural studies have demonstrated that in societies where infants were held, rocked,

massaged and carried, these children grow into adults who are compassionate and less aggressive.

Infant Massage classes are held in the SHAPE Healthcare Facility every Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon.

If you would like to know more about infant massage, contact Fiona Webster RN/Midwife, at DSN 423-3321



PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Swaying on a fresh tropical breeze

Their stage names are Iwalani and Meilani and they demonstrated Hawaiian moves as part of the Aloha Polynesia dance troupe cast. The group performed May 13 in the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base in support of Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Students inducted

Three students from AFNorth International High School were inducted into the National Honor Society in an April 21 ceremony at the high school. The students were juniors, Anette Thoresen, Michael Wigley, and Gisela Kunzer.

Traditionally students inducted into the National Honor Society have demonstrated that they value scholarship, know the lasting benefits of a cultured mind; have character, that which distinguishes them from others, and contribute service to the community. They embody leadership and serve as youth role models.

"National Honor Society members are expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community," said Nadine Moore, chapter adviser.

The AFNorth International High School Chapter has been active since 1967.

Scenes from the Aviators March, May 1, on Chièvres Air Base



PHOTOS: F. Neil Neeley



Brussels Community Calendar

ACS (02 717-9783) *Metro Madness class* May 22 and June 12, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and May 28 and June 25, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; *Toddler Play Group* every Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.-noon, CYS multi-purpose room; complimentary 2004 *Flea Market guide books* now available; contact ACS *Financial Readiness Manager*, 02 717-9698, for instructions regarding Belgian tax forms.

Outdoor Recreation (02 717-9775 or 0474 683 544) *Amsterdam* May 22, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; *Ghent and Brugge* (call to confirm) June 5, 7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; *Paris* June 12, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$40 adults, \$33 children; *Canterbury* June 19, 5 a.m.-11 p.m., \$45 adults, \$39 children.

NSA Education Center (02 717-9704) UMUC Term 5 registration May 24-June 4

Three Star Lounge (02 717-9822

or 9819) *Movie Night* with free popcorn every Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

NSA Chapel (02 717-9708) Special Guest, Jeni Varnadeau, May 23

Multi-Craft Center (02 717-9629) The NSA Multi-Craft Center offers *cross-stitching classes* Wednesday afternoons, Saturday mornings or afternoons and Sunday afternoons; *basic knitting classes* Fridays, 10 a.m., and *jewelry making classes* Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Call for info or to sign up.

Sports and Fitness (02 717-9667) Adult softball league registration through June 9. Season runs June 19-Aug. 21.

Special Events (02 717-9639) Volunteers needed for the annual Independence Day Celebration July 3.

Child and Youth Services (02 717-9665) Summer Camp June 14-Aug. 13, registration ongoing.

Library (02 717-9705) *Story Time*



PHOTO: F. Neil Neeley

Lift-off

Spec. Rebecca Jones, Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 80th Area Support Group, competes in the Europe-Wide Power Lifting Competition April 24 at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base. This was Jones' first competition, but she scored gold in her weight class in squat, dead lift and bench press.

is back for 3-6 year olds every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. *New library hours:* Monday closed, Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.,

Friday 2-7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday noon-5 p.m.

Consignment Shop (02 717-9724) Closed May 28; Open Wednesdays and Fridays only June 1-

Aug. 31, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

For more information about events happening in the Brussels community, visit www.brussels.army.mil.

SHAPE and Chièvres Community Calendar

Fitness instructors wanted - The Fitness Center on Chièvres Air Base seeks instructors for classes. Info: 068 27-5506 or email ChievresActivityCenter@benelux.army.mil The **Welcoming Everyone to Belgium** center is an Army Community Service satellite office located in Hotel Maisières, open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon. The WEB is a resource center for newcomers as well as others that need information about the SHAPE/Chièvres community and the local area. The WEB office also helps with directions or quick French to English translations. The WEB office has several books and sightseeing information. You may also post your community announcements such as information on community events and private sales ads at the WEB. **Rendezvous with French Language** to learn useful French words May 26, and June 22, 10 a.m.-noon, at the W.E.B. Center. Free class.

Prime Time Lounge on Daumerie Caserne has Karaoke night May 27, June 10 and 24, 8-11 p.m.; and Luau Tiki Party is May 29, time TBA. Volleyball tourney June 20, time TBA; Country night June 5; and Monty Carlo night June 26. Info: Kristyn Facchini, DSN 361-5540.

Help for newcomers - Info, Veronique

Hensgens, 423-4332; Take the train, May 28, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., depart from ACS, Building 318 to Brussels.

Story Time at the library on Chièvres Air Base is May 27, 4:30-5 p.m. Info: Jackie Goldfarb, DSN 361-5767.

New Parent Support Program offers "1, 2, 3, 4 Parents" workshop May 25-27, 6:45-8:15 p.m. at Shape Child Development Center, Building 616. This workshop is specifically geared to parents with children 1-4 years. Stock your toolbox with more techniques to help you with raising children. The workshop and childcare are free of charge. Registration is requested. Info: Sharon McCurdy, DSN 423-4274 or civilian 065 44-4274.

Sing patriotic tunes - SHAPE Entertainment Center seeks vocalists for the community Fourth of July Chorus. Rehearsals are Tuesdays and/or Thursdays, 6-7 p.m. Although the Fourth of July is an American National Day celebration, we invite all ages and nationalities to participate. Info: SHAPE Entertainment Center at Bldg. 207, DSN 423-3312.

Celebrate the Fourth - U.S. Independence Day Celebration on SHAPE, Sunday, July 4, noon-11:30 p.m. Lots of entertainment,

children's rides and children and adult programs. Fireworks start 11 p.m. Performers invited to entertain. Details TBA.

EEO Counselors needed - 80th ASG Equal Employment Opportunity Office needs a minimum of five new EEO Counselors, who must be Department of the Army civilian employees. There are no requirements to be in a certain grade or position. Duty is collateral. Info: Jacqueline Young, EEO Manager, DSN 361-5057 or 361-5281.

Lose weight - SHAPE Healthcare Facility has a new program for those who would like to lose weight. Anyone interested in weighing in, sharing personal goals, and receiving support is invited to come to the second floor conference room each Friday, 9-9:30 a.m., beginning June 4. If interested in ongoing assistance with efforts to have a healthy lifestyle and win the battle of the bulge, please come. Info: Rebecca Campbell, civilian 065 44-5948.

Entertainment update - Shape Entertainment Center presents "The Women" by Clare Boothe Luce. Performances are June 3, 4 and 5, 7:30 p.m.; and June 6, 3 p.m. Tickets: Euro 8 Adults, Euro 6 Students and Euro 4 children 12 years and under. Info: Jacqueline Collins, DSN 423-

3312 or civilian 065 44-3312; Salsa dance classes are every Monday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the IC Club, sign up with Cesar and Salina.

Wood shop hours expand in June to Wednesday, 5:30-9 p.m.; Thursday, noon-9 p.m.; and Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Every Saturday in June, 10:30 a.m.-noon, required power tool orientation offered. This is a safety "must." Info: SHAPE Arts and Crafts Center, Building 209, DSN 423-4680.

Rendezvous with the French language June 22, 10 a.m.-noon, at Hotel Maisières. Info: Christine Genart, DSN 423-5324.

BOSS offers discount Euro tickets to Six Flags Belgium and the Netherlands. Tickets are valid at seven different parks. Save up to Euro 45 for season pass. Info: BOSS, DSN 366-6272.

Trash the tax bill - If you live in SHAPE village and receive a garbage or rubbish tax bill please do not pay it. The City of Mons is taxing SHAPE village residents for a service they do not provide, as they do not collect refuse at SHAPE. If you make the payment now it may be difficult later to be reimbursed. Ongoing negotiations continue to rectify the situation. POC: SHAPE legal office, DSN 423-4950.

254th BSB Local Calendar

Youth Services - The opening of Schinnen Teen Center is June 21, 10 a.m., located in the Sports Center. Info: 045 526-3595; 254th BSB YS plans a dance for middle school youth grades 6-8, May 28. Info: 31 45 526-3008; Youth Services has homework aid for middle school and high school students, Monday-Friday, 4-6 p.m.; YS summer camp starts June 21 with morning and afternoon sessions. Kids must be registered. Info: DSN 364-3595 or civilian 045 526-3595.

Tri-border parenting fair is June 4, 10 a.m., at the rear of the AFNorth International School library.

Course offered at Chièvres - A Team Building course is June 16-18 at Chièvres. Info: DSN 375-9837.

CLEP testing is back - Treebeek Education Center has new College Level Examination Program material. Info: 364-6060.

Club aids orphans in Afghanistan - Project Afghanistan, The American Spouses Club collects items

for the International Orphan Car in Kabul. Drop off donations at the U.S. Thrift Shop at Schinnen or the U.K. Thrift Shop at AFNorth. Food International Orphan Care, Open to all students at AFNorth and Geilenkirchen. Kids should draw a picture of themselves with their favorite food. Pictures and a can/box of the favorite food should be taken to the Thrift Shop at Schinnen. Info: 046 443-7436.

Job available at Schinnen - Directorate of Community Activities has part time positions for Child and Youth Program assistants in the Child Development Center, School Age Services and Youth Services. Info: Benelux CPAC, 32 6827-5467 or visit Benelux.cpac@epocean.army.mil; 254th BSB Morale, Welfare and Recreation seeks a Family Advocacy Program educator, an Exceptional Family Member Program coordinator, Army Family Team Building coordinator and an Army Family Ac-

tion Plan coordinator. Info: DSN 360-7452; Schinnen Commissary delicatessen section has a job vacancy for American applicants. Info: stop by the commissary.

Shed pounds - TaeBo/aerobics classes are Monday-Thursday, 6-7 p.m., at Schinnen Sports Center. Sign up at the Fitness Center. Info: 31 46 443-7561.

Bowling Center news - Cosmic bowling Fridays, 6 p.m.; No Tap Tournaments Saturdays, 6 p.m., men 9 pins, women 8 pins.

Breastfeeding Support Group meets May 26, 10 - 11 a.m., ACS Conference Room, Schinnen.

Playgroup for Toddlers meets every Thursday, 9:30-11:30 a.m., at Schinnen Sports Center.

Free developmental screening service for babies through 3 years. All American-sponsored families are eligible. Call Mary Jo Rooney at 045 563-6126.

Adult classes set - Unless otherwise indicated, classes are held in

ACS Building 39 at Schinnen, 046-443-7500; *Enhance Your Child's Self-Esteem* May 25, 11 a.m.-noon; *Spouses of Deployed Service Members: Handling conflict in a Positive Way*, May 27, 6-7 p.m.; New Parent Education *Infant massage class* June 1, 10 a.m.; Employment Readiness Program has two workshops every Tuesday: *Finding Employment*, 10 a.m.-noon, and *Hands on Resumix*, 2-4 p.m.

New opening hours for the Value Added Tax (VAT) office are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

254th BSB hosts the U.S. Forces Europe Youth Senior Baseball Championship June 11-13 at AFNORTH Sports Complex. Info: DSN 364-3595.

BOSS activities - BOSS offers a *moonlight cruise* on the Maas River June 19, 7:30 p.m. The trip is for U.S. NATO and ID card holders for a discount price and includes free bus transportation from AFNORTH U.S. Delegation. Info:

DSN 360-7236; *BOSS has a flea market* June 5, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Schinnen Recreation Plaza, Sports Center. Info: DSN 360-7236.

News from Geilenkirchen Clinic: GK Clinic closes May 31 and June 10; Moms-to-be, obstetrics orientation/prenatal education class is June 8, 10 a.m.-noon, call 31 46 443-7335; GK Clinic is conducting a survey and asks for patient cooperation. Results are used to improve healthcare; GK Clinic has two cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes the first and third Friday of the month. The first Friday is for health care providers and the other is offered for the general population. Info: 49 2451 99-3343. All classes are held in the clinic training room.

Looking to get rid of unwanted "stuff?" Check out the Park and Sell behind the U.S. Post Office at GK, June 12, 10 a.m. - noon. Call Kim Gaines, 49 2451-2258 to secure a spot.

AFAP conference results from Brussels are released

By Isabelle Gillet

Army Community Service in Brussels hosted the Tri-Mission Community Army Family Action Plan Forum March 9-10. A cross-section of the Brussels community of 21 adult delegates analyzed 23 issues submitted by community members. The groups worked to prioritize each group's top three issues and to formulate realistic recommendations. A youth forum of eight middle school children and teens voiced their concerns and ideas on improving quality of life for youth. A Steering Committee met May 5 and has taken results from the working groups and will monitor the resolution process. Updates will be addressed at Town Hall meetings throughout the year, and publicized on the Brussels Community website as well as in the Brussels Weekly.

Delegates working at the AFAP this year voted for the top three most improved services in Brussels: **1 - AAFES Shoppette**, for better customer service, greater selection of items, especially books, and because of its new Brussels manager; **2-3 - Special Events/Three-Star Lounge**, for increase of family activities and community functions, **tied with Child and Youth Services**, for new transportation service by bus, and increase of activities such as the Children Sports Program.

The groups also voted for the top four most valuable services the military provides in general and gave the reasons why they highly value those services: **1 - AAFES**, for its model "we go where you go" supporting the morale through all the services

and U.S. products it provides; **2, 3, 4 - Health Clinic**, for the continuity of care provided, and liaison with the local medical community, **tied with the Commissary**, for its "home away from home," improving the quality of life through all the U.S. products provided, **and with Housing**, for the liaison with local landlords, high level of customer service, and less relocation stress.

AFAP delegates selected five most critical active issues at the HQDA level. The results were spread. The elected issues could not possibly be reduced to only five since the votes were done separately by the different groups from the initial list of 97 issues being currently worked by Headquarters, Dept. of the Army. However, Issue # 497 was advanced by both the Family

Support Services group and the Information and Referral/Relocation Services group. The intent of this Most Critical Active Issue is to allow all soldiers with at least ten years of service to distribute their Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their dependents. Details on AFAP can be obtained through Isabelle Gillet, NSA ACS Program Analysis and Marketing, at 02 717-9643.



PHOTO By: Carol-Ann Whipple

Witness to history

Maurice Sperandieu shows Brussels American School students Maria Lemeschenko and Girts Saudvids uniforms worn by Germans and Americans in the epic Battle of the Bulge during the winter of 1944-1945 in Belgium. Sperandieu was assigned to Patton's Third Army during World War II. He spoke to sixth grade students at BAS about the battle and life in Belgium under Nazi occupation. Every year students from Wendy Pamay's sixth grade class visit the Ardennes forest, site of the battle.

CELEBRATION from Page 8

That early memory is the only part I have clearly retained from the ceremony.

After the ceremony was completed, my parents (and I think my mother's parents) would buy an ice cream for my sister Nancy and me. I remember a line of scouts formed outside Clifford's Rexall drugstore. Each scout who marched in the parade got a ticket to be exchanged for a free ice cream sandwich, the kind with chocolate wafers on the outside. I didn't understand much about the ceremony at that age, but I was a master of ice cream appreciation. I wanted to be in one of those uniforms and I wanted to have a ticket that got the ice cream. The treat from my parents wasn't good enough. I wanted the FREE one.

A few more Memorial Days went by and I was old enough to join Pack 130 and become a Cub Scout. I then realized my earliest ambition. I marched in the Memorial Day parade, I stood through the ceremony at the lowest level of Riverside Cemetery, and I got the free ice cream sandwich at Clifford's Rexall.

A few more years pass by, and now I know what the ceremony was about. You don't even have to know history. Watch the news, and you'll

see why the ceremony takes place.

I was in Washington, D.C. this year on April 29, and coincidentally that was the first public opening day of the new World War II Memorial on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. I was lucky enough to speak with three veterans of World War II visiting the memorial that day. Two were from the Philippines. The third lived in the area and had fought in France. I was pleased that a high school girl asked me to make a picture with her camera of her chance encounter with the two vets from the Philippines. They really enjoyed having their picture taken with her. I thanked all three veterans for their sacrifices and for making the world a better place.

At my more advanced age, I now know that when we attend a Memorial Day ceremony, we thank the men and women who either didn't make it back alive from the fight, or who have passed on since their tour of duty. We are losing our World War II vets, for instance, at the rate of 1,100 per day, and that's the main reason why the World War II Memorial was opened April 29 instead of waiting until the Memorial Day official dedication ceremony.

I hope you will find time to attend one of the Memorial Day ceremonies at one of the American military cemeteries in Europe. It is especially meaningful to mark this holi-

day in a country where the fighting happened and where thousands who died in the effort are buried.

Although I very fondly remember the Memorial Days of my childhood, I know the observances I have witnessed here in Europe will further bond the concept of country and sacrifice to my long-ago appreciation of how this holiday relates to family and community. I got my first glimmers of that understanding all those years ago while hoisted on my father's shoulders, watching the Memorial Day parade on Maple Street. I now understand that was a bit of liberty being realized.

A few years later, I know liberty will always trump an ice cream sandwich, but it can melt about as quickly.

Erratum

The Meteor published inaccurate information in the April 22 issue in an article about the Sergeant Morales Club induction of Staff Sgt. David Flynn. The story stated, "Flynn becomes the first NCO to be selected from the 80th ASG in more than three years." The information was not correct. Representatives of NATO Protective Services were inducted in 2001 and 2003. The Meteor regrets the error.



Benelux Meteor Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date	Copy due (noon)	Print Date
May 24	Jun 4	June 28	July 9	July 26	Aug. 6	Aug. 30	Sept. 10
June 7	June 18	July 12	July 23	Aug. 9	Aug. 20	Sept. 13	Sept. 24

About Us



The *Benelux Meteor* is the authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under AR 360-1 for 80th Area Support Group personnel. Editorial content is provided by the 80th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office and the 254th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 80th Area Support Group. The *Meteor* is published twice per month. Circulation is 3,000. Our mailing address is Benelux Meteor, HQ 80th ASG, Unit 21419, Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09708. Telephone: DSN 361-5419; fax: DSN 361-5106; civilian telephone prefix: 068-27-5419. The country code for Belgium is 0032. Email address: meteor@benelux.army.mil

Policy

- We invite and encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request, but we will not print any anonymous letters.
- We reserve the right to edit letters to make them fit the allotted space, to remove libelous material and to correct grammar. Letters should contribute to the informational interest of the issue in question.
- Articles and photographs may be submitted for consideration but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Community-related event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms initially and include a point of contact, telephone number and e-mail address.
- All submissions are subject to editing.

Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Benelux Meteor* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered. Everything advertised must be available for purchase, use or patronage, without discrimination.

- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.

Deadline
Copy and photographs are due by noon 10 calendar days before publication date.

Commanders	
COL Timothy J. Quinn	80th Area Support Group
LTC Deborah P. Broughton	254th Base Support Battalion
LTC Jon M. Davis Jr.	NATO Support Activity
Public Affairs Officers and personnel	
Marie-Lise Baneton	80th Area Support Group
Susan Jackson	254th Base Support Battalion
Rick Haverinen	Editor
F. Neil Neeley	Writer
Sandy Aubrey	Writer

Remember our fallen heroes on Memorial Day

Just one story among tens of thousands at American military cemeteries in Europe

RIGHT: The graves of Victor Akimoto, right, and his brother John were decorated with flags for Memorial Day last year at Lorraine American Cemetery in France. John was killed Aug. 2, 1944 in Italy during the push north from Rome. Victor was wounded and captured when the 442nd Regiment rescued the "Lost Battalion" in the Vosges Mountains of France. He died Dec. 14, 1944 in a German prisoner of war camp.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen



Photo courtesy of Ted Akimoto

LEFT: This portrait of the Akimoto family was made while Victor Akimoto, fourth from left, was home on leave from the U.S. Army during the spring of 1942. He had volunteered one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and started duty just before a temporary wave of paranoia precluded enlisting Soldiers of Japanese ancestry into U.S. forces. When this picture was made, the family had not yet been ordered locked up in an internment camp, a fate that awaited all Americans of Japanese ancestry. Honest, loyal Americans lost savings, businesses, and found after the war that possessions put into storage were looted. Victor's brother John is behind Victor's right shoulder. John enlisted in the Army in April 1943 from the family's internment camp in Idaho. John was assigned to 100th Inf. Bn., before it became part of the 442nd Inf. Regiment. Victor was assigned to a different company of 100th Bn., 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Brother Ned is over Victor's left shoulder. Victor's mother, Mary Miki, and father, Masanori, are on either side of him. Sister Martha is at far left and sister Ruth at far right. Ruth's husband Hideo Kodani is over her right shoulder, and their son Jon stands in front of Victor. Another brother, Ted, was operating the camera to make this picture. Ted enlisted in the Army toward the end of the war, and ran the photography unit for Gen. Douglas MacArthur in occupied Japan. Ned raised crops for his internment camp and later worked for a contractor that made torpedos.

Cemeteries offer opportunities for an American Memorial Day

The American Overseas Memorial Day Association ensures that we will never forget the sacrifice of thousands of Americans who lie buried in American military cemeteries in Europe. In conjunction with United States Embassies in host nation capitols and the American Battle Monuments Commission in Washington DC, AOMDA conducts Memorial Day Ceremonies at each cemetery to honor the servicemen who gave their lives so that Europe may be free.

AOMDA's Memorial Day ceremonies are unique events as Americans and host nationals gather to honor the brave servicemen and women who lie buried far away from home. Veterans, resistance survivors, senior military officers, diplomats, government officials and other distinguished guests offer testimonials and prayers in honor of the dead. American and host na-

tional military units salute the fallen with military honors. Aging veterans offer poignant witness to the sacrifices made. One of the most dramatic events during the annual ceremonies is the "Missing Man" low-level fly-by formation performed by four fighters from the U.S. Air Force. It is no wonder that many families bring their children to these solemn and dramatic ceremonies to teach them the true meaning of freedom and its cost in human life.

May 29, 10 a.m., Ardennes Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz. This 90-acre World War II cemetery contains the graves of 5,328 Americans, many of whom died in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944-1945. Because the cemetery served as a central identification point during and immediately after the war, it also contains the graves of soldiers and aircrew killed throughout the

Allied drive through Belgium, France and Germany.

May 29, 4 p.m., Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Aubel/Hombourg. This 57-acre World War II cemetery contains the graves of 7,989 Americans, most of whom died in the advance into Germany in 1944-1945. It also contains the graves of Americans killed in the September 1944 operations in Belgium and Holland and in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

May 30 - 3 p.m., Flanders Field Cemetery in Waregem. This six-acre World War I battlefield cemetery is the final resting place of 368 Americans killed in October and November of 1918 in the final offensive of the war. This Memorial Day Ceremony is unique in featuring the school children of Waregem who sing the American National Anthem, a tradition that be-

gan in 1923.

May 30 - 3 p.m., Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, six miles east of Maastricht. The cemetery covers 65 acres and is the third largest in Europe. It contains 8,301 graves including 40 sets of brothers, four women and a general. On the memorial walls, on either side of the reflecting pool at the entrance of the cemetery, are 1723 names engraved in stone of those missing - the men without a grave.

May 30 - 11 a.m., Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France. The cemetery is 113 acres in size and contains 10,489 American Military Dead, the largest number in our military cemeteries of World War II Dead in Europe. Most of the Dead were killed in driving the German forces from the fortress city of Metz toward the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River.

A personal memory of a Memorial Day celebration in northern New England

By Rick Haverinen

My first vivid memories of family are centered around Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the holiday that made me first aware of the relationship between family and community was Memorial Day.

My hometown was South Paris, Maine, in the foothills of the White Mountains. The population was less than 3,000 in my little village in the 1950's. My community didn't do much for the Fourth of July, although there was always a good fireworks display every year set up on the race-track at the Oxford County Fairgrounds. But Memorial Day was special because there was a parade. It was impossible for me to miss that procession. My parents had a downstairs apartment on Maple Street, almost directly across from the Grange hall. The start of Maple Street is on Market Square, the center of the village, and the street ends at Riverside Cemetery, the destination for the Memorial Day parade. The color guard, the band, the veterans, and the scouts formed up at the high school, marched down Pine Street, through the square, turned right on Maple, and passed right by our house.

At some young age, I might have been 4, I remember being hoisted up on my father's shoulders for a good view. I wasn't sure what the excitement was about, but in rural Maine, the holiday was a landmark event of the year.

After the parade passed by, we followed the crowd



Photo courtesy of Ben Conant

Judging by the cars, this Memorial Day parade in South Paris, Maine, was probably in the 1940s. The color guard was exiting Pine Street into Market Square and would soon turn into Maple Street. Clifford's Rexall, the ceremony's ice cream source, would have been behind the photographer's left shoulder.

into the cemetery for the ceremony.

Riverside Cemetery was designed as a place of rest for the town's dead, of course, but it was a perfect setting for a Memorial Day ceremony. The planners terraced the grave plots in the corner that slopes down toward the Little Androscoggin River. The several terraces are arced, so the effect is that of a semi-circular amphitheater. The audience could stand on the elevated terraces among the grave stones with the ceremony taking place below and view the river through the trees. It still is a beautiful place.

I didn't really understand the nature of the ceremony, but I remember my early impression was that it had a magical quality. I was told to be very quiet. At the part where Taps was played on the trumpet, the musician who played the echo had to risk a soaking by descending the steep bank down to the river. From this hidden position, the sound of the echo to the audience seemed to come from some distant spot on the other side of the Little Androscoggin. It exactly realized the desired effect.

See **CELEBRATION**, Page 7.